(c) whether any time frame for completing the study has been fixed; and

(d) the people, who are identified for conducting this study?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) to (d) A decision has been taken to conduct a quick survey in 25 to 30 cities all over the country to assess the extent of drug abuse in the country and the causes that are responsible for its spread. The names of the cities and the research directors are being finalised. It is proposed to complete the study in a period about 6 to 7 months after the final selection of places and project directors has been made.

Development of Food processing Industries in Collaboration with State Governments

317. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the food processing industries would be in the field of agriculture, if so, what steps have been initiated by Government to collaborate with the State Governments in setting up of food processing industries;

(b) what prospective plan has been developed in collaboration with the State Governments for the development of food processing industries in the country; and

(c) what are the details of the food processing industries to be developed in different States, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Nodal agencies are being set up in each State for coordinating activities connected with food processing industries. Funding by way of equity for Corporations set up to process fruits and vegetables is also undertaken.

(b) and (c) The nodal agencies set up in each State has been advised to draw a detailed action plan for development of food processing industries in their respective States.

Procurement of Foodgrains

318. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what will be the target of procurement of foodgrains for the current year;

(b) whether there is a possibility of exceeding the targets in the procurement of foodgrains during the rabi season; and

(c) whether in view of the prospect of exceeded procurement would Government consider a possibility of stopping the import of foodgrains?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) to (c) No targets are fixed as wheat and paddy are procured under price support operations and rice is procured under levy on millers and dealers. However, Government is keeping a close watch on the food situation in the country and will exercise the option of importing foodgrains if and when considered necessary.

Performance of Mini-Steel Plants

319. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mini-steel plants are not doing well for the last few years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to revive the units?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) The viability of some mini-steel plants in the country during the last few years has been somewhat poor due to their technological obsolescence. Mini-Steel Plants have also represented regarding shortage of power and high prices of inputs.

(c) In order to enable the units to become technologically efficient and more viable, Government have decided to allow expansion of mini steel plants which undertake modernisation. Government have also reduced the custom duty on imported scrap by 5 per cent *ad valorem* with effect from 4th December, 86.

Impact of Import of Seeds on Domestic Production of Quality Seeds

320. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allow import of large quantities of seeds under OGL;

(b) if so, the reasons for allowing such imports;

(c) whether the imports would affect domestic production of quality seeds; and

(d) whether the imported seeds are likely to suit our environmental conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) No, Sir. However, the import of only seeds of vegetables/flowers and ornamental plants, tubes and bulbs, cutting saplings, budwoods, etc. of flowers will be allowed on OGL by identified categories.

(b) the reason behind allowing such imports are to increase vegetable production and productivity, to ensure the increased availability of vegetables on reasonable prices to the consumers, to increase exports and to generate higher income to the farmers.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Lock-out in Industrial Units

321. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrial units which have declared lock-outs during the last three years since January, 1985; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to reopen these factories?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) According to latest available information, the number of units which declared lock-outs was 400 in 1985, 434 in 1986 and 451 in 1987.

(b) The Government have been maintaining a close and continuous watch on the industrial relations situation in the country. Industrial Relation Machinery both at the Centre and in the States are taking steps to reduce the incidence of lock-outs through prevenitve mediation and conciliation. Penalities for illegal lock-outs are proposed to be made more stringent in the amendments proposed to the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

Telecast of Ballets on Social Themes

322. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cultural organisations have approached Government for telecast of bellets on social themes, including dowry